



# Community Listen Zone Blitz 18-Month Action Plan

*Zone Blitz initiatives are defined as: Problems or opportunities identified in the Northwest quadrant of Springfield, MO (Council Zone 1), that are being addressed by Zone Blitz partners any time after June 1, 2015.*

## *Initiatives for All Neighborhoods*



### **CHRONIC NUISANCE PROPERTIES**

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1. **The City will update the Nuisance Property code to “raise the bar” on chronic nuisance properties within the city.**
2. To address unhealthy, unsafe rental properties, the City will offer a one-block pilot “Safe Housing” inspection project within five neighborhoods whereby health inspections will be conducted to ensure life safety issues are addressed. Official neighborhood associations will recommend one-block areas within their respective boundaries. The City will select five of these blocks for phase 1 of this pilot project; the remaining four blocks will be addressed in phase 2.
3. The City will develop a set of criteria and website for potential renters to access.
4. The City will work toward funding one additional Building Development Services (BDS) inspector to assist with the safe housing pilot project.
5. For interested neighborhoods, the City will attempt to fund a 2nd annual neighborhood clean-up program to supplement the one clean up per year currently funded.



### **DIGITAL DIVIDE**

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6. Springfield Public Schools will provide additional Wifi hotspots at IGNiTE schools located in Zone 1. Those include Hillcrest High School; Reed Middle School; Bowerman, Boyd and York Elementary Schools.
7. The Library District Wifi hotspot program will be expanded.
8. Business Wifi program registration online mapping will provide updated information to citizens where free Wifi is available.
9. The City will assist the Library District with promotion of Library Internet usage education programs.
10. Researching the potential to expand Wifi access in area parks.



### **FOOD ACCESS**

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11. The Food Access Team and Ozarks Food Harvest will create a Community Food Resource Center in Zone 1, possibly connected with a Job Center.
12. The Food Access Team will develop a streamlined referral process for assistance with enrollment for SNAP, WIC and Springfield Public Schools Free and Reduced Lunch programs.
13. Springfield Public Schools will attempt to fund an after-school and/or summer meal program at one additional school within Zone 1 during the next 18 months.
14. **Pyramid Foods commits to remodeling and reopening a Price Cutter grocery store at Commercial and Grant, addressing the area's food desert.**



## HEALTH CARE

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15. The Springfield-Greene County Health Department's Community Health Advocate Program will be enhanced.
16. Develop referral memorandums of understanding (MOUs) from Community Health Advocates to the local hospitals and Jordan Valley Community Health Center.
17. The Health Care Team and Springfield Public Schools will continue to seek and explore funding options with partners for a school-based social worker program.
18. The Springfield-Greene County Health Department will continue to work with neighborhood associations to coordinate health screenings and other health-related events as requested.
19. Area health care providers will work together to develop an implementation plan, following the publishing of the 4-state; 50-county Regional Community Health Needs Assessment in Spring 2016.



## HOUSING

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20. The Housing Team and OACAC will work with the Communication Team to communicate the availability of weatherization and energy efficiency assistance programs to citizens within Zone 1.
21. The City's Planning & Development Department will continue to work with CPO to offer annual training to landlords.
22. The City's Planning & Development Department will gauge interest from residents on offering a Tenant Advocate Program.
23. The Housing Team will work with the Housing Collaborative and other organizations on a cohesive plan to implement recommendations from the Impacting Poverty Commission Report.



## INFRASTRUCTURE & TRANSPORTATION

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24. City Utilities will install a new covered bus shelter at Chestnut & Orchard Crest to serve a western portion of Zone 1.

*(Most Infrastructure & Transportation action items are listed by neighborhood in the neighborhood sections of this plan)*



## **JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

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25. Multiple job skills/empowerment programs will be offered to Zone 1 residents by both businesses and faith-based institutions.
26. The City's Job Center will open a satellite office within Zone 1, possibly connected with a Community Food Resource Center.
27. The City's Job Center Mobile Bus will visit all Zone 1 neighborhoods, including specific neighborhood events as requested by the neighborhood associations.
28. The Civic Engagement Team and Communication Team will help with the referral process into Circles, the University of Missouri – Extension life skills development program housed at The Fairbanks.



## **PUBLIC SAFETY**

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29. The Springfield Police Department will offer Block Watch training programs to all neighborhoods within Zone 1 that request it.
30. The Springfield Police Department will offer Crime Prevention presentations to all neighborhood associations within Zone 1 that request it.
31. The Springfield Police Department will offer the CAP program to all neighborhoods within Zone 1 with request it.
- 32. The Springfield Police Department will increase patrols and enforcement within Zone 1.**
33. The Springfield Police Department and the Communication Team will promote the use of the Next Door social media tool within all Zone 1 neighborhoods to (a) increase communication among neighborhood citizens and (b) increase communication with the Police Department.
- 34. The Springfield Police Department will offer and encourage registration of privately owned security cameras into a system that allows SPD to utilize the resulting videos to solve crimes.**
35. The Junior League of Springfield will consider reinitiating the Safe Place program throughout Zone 1.
36. The Springfield Police Department will work with partner organizations to purchase and install a set of security cameras in high-crime locations.



## **WELLNESS**

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- 37. Springfield-Greene County Parks Department will partner with volunteer Steve Pokin to begin a running club for kids in grades 2 through 6, based at Westport Elementary.**
38. Wellness champions will be identified in each Zone 1 neighborhood. These “champions” can be individuals or organizations willing to take on this responsibility.
39. The Springfield-Greene County Parks Department will offer a Zone Blitz Wellness Discount to Doling Family Center in Zone 1 and Chesterfield and Dan Kinney Family Centers in south Springfield.
40. The Springfield-Greene County Parks Department will consider the feasibility of offering a youth summer pool pass to the Doling Aquatic Center.
41. The Springfield-Greene County Parks Department will work with neighborhood associations to host multiple “event/sport” days at area parks in order to introduce youth to a variety of sports.
42. The Springfield-Greene County Parks Department and other partners will work with Grant Beach Neighborhood Association to expand their existing youth recreation program to offer opportunities to other children in Zone 1.
43. Springfield-Greene County Parks Department will consider expanding the concept of an Introduction to Tennis program provided previously in Lafayette Park, to other park locations in Zone 1.
44. The Wellness Committee will create a “Wellness Passport” program to bring together and promote wellness activities offered in Zone 1. Residents who collect a certain number of “stamps” in their passport will receive an incentive.



## CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

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- The Civic Engagement team will work with the Communication team to identify and engage informal and formal Zone 1 leaders in activities; ensure coordination between activities and ideas and those interested in participating.
- The Civic Engagement team will facilitate the process of collaboration between the topic teams and stakeholders in Zone 1 neighborhoods (e.g., residents, neighborhood associations, schools, faith-based organizations).
- The Civic Engagement team will recruit and train volunteers from throughout the City and in Zone 1 to increase capacity for successfully implementing Zone Blitz projects and programming.
- The Civic Engagement team will work with Zone 1 stakeholders to mobilize residents to become more engaged in their neighborhoods, with the overall goal of increasing social interaction, social capital, and trust.
- The Civic Engagement team will work to recruit and train new leaders in Zone 1, who will be able to sustain momentum and increase local problem-solving capacity after the 18-month blitz ends.



## COMMUNICATION

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- The Communication Team will create a comprehensive PR/Communication Plan for Zone Blitz Initiatives.
- The Communication Team will work with community partners to develop "hubs" for information sharing within Zone 1.
- The Communication Team will launch mini campaigns or support campaigns already in existence to promote the 211 system; City Utilities' Project Share program; the Safe Housing Pilot Program; the recommendations of the Impacting Poverty Commission; OACAC's weatherization opportunities; City Utilities' Credit Union Fresh Start Loan Program, low-cost home Internet services (such as everyoneon.org) and any other Zone Blitz partner initiatives.
- The Communication plan will include creating and maintaining a comprehensive document and website detailing partner opportunities.
- The Communication plan will include creating and maintaining a comprehensive document and website detailing volunteer and donor opportunities.
- The Communication Team will work with the Civic Engagement team to identify and engage informal and formal Zone 1 leaders in activities; ensure coordination between activities and ideas and those interested in participating.
- **The City's Department of Public Information will maintain a database of Topic team coaches and members; Partner organization contacts; partner initiative contacts and all interested parties.**
- **The City's Department of Public Information will ensure internal communication is effective between Zone Blitz topic teams and among City of Springfield departments and partner organizations responding. (Specific efforts include, but are not limited to, monthly and as-needed eblasts.)**
- **The Communication Team will work with the City of Springfield to ensure the Zone Blitz is understood in the context of other anti-poverty initiatives, such as the IPC Report recommendations, Mayor's Crisis Sheltering Task Force recommendations, Lumina Foundation Grant, etc.**
- **The City's Department of Public information will assist the City Manager and Zone 1 Councilwoman with City communication efforts around the Zone Blitz, including a faith-based tour; communication coordination with the National Resource Network engagement; mass media opportunities and challenges; town hall meetings, etc.**

\* Items in green have already begun implementation

### *Specific Initiatives by Neighborhood*

1. New school sidewalks (\$110,000)
2. New sidewalks within the neighborhood (\$62,000)
3. City Utilities will install a new covered bus shelter at Chestnut & Hilton (at the boundary of Bissett and Westside)

## DOLING

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4. New school sidewalks (\$57,000)
5. Install box culvert under Talmage (\$50,000)
6. Install new sidewalk along Talmage (\$50,000)
7. Block Watch training has already been completed by SPD
8. The feasibility of offering wifi access in Doling Park will be researched

## GRANT BEACH

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9. Improve drainage (\$40,000)
10. Block Watch training has already been completed by SPD
11. Expand existing youth athletic programs
12. CU/Springnet to consider offering lower cost or free Internet service at "neighborhood house"

## HEART OF THE WESTSIDE

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13. New sidewalks within the neighborhood (\$45,000)
14. Scott Street sidewalk (\$100,000)
15. Re-pave park parking lot (\$38,000)
16. SNAP/WIC/Free & Reduced Lunch program enrollment blitz
17. New community garden, if the neighborhood can support

## MID-TOWN

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18. Commercial Street streetscape (\$1,000,000)
19. Central Street corridor project (\$2,900,000)

## TOM WATKINS

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20. Re-pave park parking lot (\$33,000)
21. Improve drainage along Hillcrest (\$500,000)
22. New community garden, if the neighborhood can support

23. Springfield-Greene County Health Department will offer WIC services at John B. Hughes Apartments (2100 N. Clifton) one day per month.

## WEST CENTRAL

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24. Jordan Creek bridge (\$1,200,000)
25. Broadway Plaza in Route 66 Corridor

## WESTSIDE

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26. New school sidewalks (\$57,000)
27. New sidewalks within neighborhood (\$85,000)
28. Expand existing community garden, if neighborhood can support it
29. Block Watch training scheduled
30. City Utilities will install a new covered bus shelter at Chestnut & Hilton (the boundary of Westside and Bissett)

## WOODLAND HEIGHTS

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31. New stormwater system along Turner (\$500,000)
32. Support for existing community garden
33. Block Watch training scheduled
34. Rehabilitation of Jefferson Avenue Footbridge (est. \$500,000)
35. City Utilities will install a new covered bus shelter at Grant & Commercial